S P E C I F I C A T I O N

TITLE

"A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CREATING A WEBSITE FOR A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER"

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally relates to a method and a system for creating websites on a computer network. Specifically, the present invention relates to a method and a system for creating websites on a remote computer via a remote server using pre-defined information contained on a database within the remote server. A user of the remote computer may access the remote server via a computer network, such as, for example, the internet. Specifically, the method and the system allow a healthcare provider to create a website using pre-defined information on the remote server via the remote computer and having information relating to the healthcare provider on the website.

It is, of course, generally known to create websites having information thereon for providing the information on a computer network, such as, for example, the internet. A user using a remote computer may access the information from the database. Generally, however, individuals who wish to create a website must have a working knowledge of hypertext markup language (HTML)or an HTML editor for creating the website and, further, must store the website on a remote server having access to the computer network at all times.

Further, it is generally known to provide a website created on a remote server whereby an individual may access the remote server and create a website using information contained on the remote server. Known websites that may provide these services are My Yahoo,

Homestead.com and Salu.net.

However, known systems for creating websites on a remote server by accessing a remote server via a remote computer on a computer network do not allow healthcare providers, such as, for example, healthcare practitioners, hospitals, nursing homes, and other like facilities, to use pre-defined information related to the healthcare provider on the remote server for building a website related to the healthcare provider. Further, known systems do not provide such users the ability to subsequently store the website in a database on the remote server to provide for later search activities by a site visitor.

Moreover, a healthcare provider that may build a website to be placed on the internet must use "metatags" for specifically identifying the website within the computer network for allowing search engines to search the computer network for the websites. Site visibility for a website is, therefore, generally random and requires constant metatag management to be placed at the top of a search result list. Further, if a person wishes to find a healthcare provider on the internet, he must know the exact site address or find the website by chance using a search engine.

A need, therefore, exists for an improved method and a system for providing a searchable network having a plurality of websites relating to healthcare providers stored on a database within the network that overcome the problems associated with known methods and systems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally relates to a method and a system for providing a network on a remote server for storing websites of healthcare providers.

Specifically, the present invention relates to a method and a system for allowing healthcare providers to create websites for storage within the network and subsequent updating of a search engine database.

To this end, in an embodiment of the present invention, a method is provided for creating websites for individuals, healthcare facilities and other healthcare providers. The method comprises the steps of: providing a remote server having a database; accessing the remote server via a first remote computer on a computer network; creating a website having a first web page by the remote computer on the remote server wherein the website relates to a healthcare provider providing healthcare services; assigning pre-defined attributes to the website that uniquely identify the website; and linking the website to the database wherein the database is searchable via a search engine wherein the search engine searches the database for specific attributes.

In an embodiment, the database is searched for the specific attributes.

In an embodiment, an update button is created on the website for instantly amending the database whenever the update button is chosen by the healthcare provider.

In an embodiment, the pre-defined attributes are stored on the database for recall of the attributes for placement in the website and related searchable attributes in the database.

In an embodiment, a plurality of databases is networked for storing the websites.

In an embodiment, the remote server is accessed for recalling the website stored on the database.

In an embodiment, links are added to the website for linking other websites relating to other healthcare

providers to the website.

In an embodiment, photographs, various graphics and/or logos are added to the website via the remote computer.

In an embodiment, the website is associated with one or more practitioners who practice at or are involved with a practice, clinic, hospital, healthcare facility or other provider.

In an embodiment, one or more web pages are created on the website having information thereon related to any healthcare provider associated with the practice location.

In an embodiment, the database is accessed via a second remote computer. The database searches for the attributes of the website and the practitioner's individual website.

In an embodiment, pre-defined information is chosen to add to the website wherein the information uniquely identifies the website for searching of the database for the pre-defined website information.

In an embodiment, a plurality of web pages is added to the website related to the healthcare provider.

In an embodiment, the attributes are organized into files for storage within the database, and the files are searched via a search engine for at least one of the attributes stored within the database.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a system is provided for creating websites for healthcare providers. The system has a remote server having a database therein on a computer network. A first remote computer is connected to the remote server via the computer network wherein a website having a web page is created on the remote server via the remote computer

using pre-defined information contained on the remote server wherein the website relates to a first healthcare provider providing healthcare services and further wherein the website is stored on the database. Pre-defined attributes are associated with the website for uniquely identifying the website in the database.

In an embodiment, an update button is provided on the website for instantly amending the website via the remote computer.

In an embodiment, an update button is provided on the website for instantly amending the searchable website attributes contained in the search engine database.

In an embodiment, a search engine is provided on the remote server for searching the database for the website via the attributes.

In an embodiment, a plurality of databases are networked together for storing and accessing the website.

In an embodiment, a second remote computer is provided wherein the second remote computer accesses the website.

In an embodiment, links on the website are provided for linking other websites to the website.

It is, therefore, an advantage of the present invention to provide a method and a system for creating websites for healthcare providers on a network that allow healthcare providers to create the websites related to the healthcare providers.

A further advantage of the present invention is to provide a method and a system for creating websites for healthcare providers within a network that stores websites within a database.

Moreover, an advantage of the present invention is to provide a method and a system for creating websites

for healthcare providers within a network that allow attributes to be identified with the websites for searching the database for the attributes.

Still further, an advantage of the present invention is to provide a method and a system for creating websites for healthcare providers within a network that allow instant updating of the website attributes via a remote computer.

And, another advantage of the present invention is to provide a method and a system for creating websites for healthcare providers within a network that provide pre-defined information relating to the healthcare providers in the database for adding to the websites.

In addition, an advantage of the present invention is to provide a method and a system for creating websites for healthcare providers within a network that allow individuals to search the network for specific websites.

Still further, an advantage of the present invention is to provide a method and a system for creating websites for healthcare providers within a network that allow a plurality of healthcare providers to associate with each other on the network.

Additional features and advantages of the present invention are described in, and will be apparent from, the detailed description of the presently preferred embodiments and from the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 illustrates a network contained between remote servers in an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2 illustrates a blackbox diagram showing a method for creating a website in an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention relates to a method and a system for creating websites for healthcare providers contained on a network. More specifically, the present invention relates to a method and a system for creating websites for healthcare providers whereby a healthcare provider may create a website using pre-defined information relating to the healthcare provider contained on a database and then store the website on the database. An individual who accesses the database may search the database for the healthcare provider's website.

Referring now to the drawings wherein like numerals refer to like parts, Figure 1 illustrates a system 1 that may include a remote server 10 connected by remote computers 12,14. The remote server 10 may be connected to a global computer network such as, for example, the internet. Alternatively, the remote server 10 may be connected to an intranet such as, for example, within a corporation or a business such as on a LAN network. The remote computers 12,14 may have access to the remote server 10 via the computer network. The remote server 10 may have a database 16 contained therein and may store a plurality of websites 18a-18d within the database 16. A search engine 20 may be contained within the remote server 10 to search the websites 18a-18d.

Moreover, remote computers 22,24 may be attached to another remote server 26 that may have a database 28 contained therein. The database 28 may be connected with the database 16 to provide a network 15 for storing the websites 18a-18d and providing access to websites 18a-18d. In addition, the remote server 26 any include a

search engine 30 that may search the database 28 or the database 16 to find one of the websites 18a-18d.

Any of the remote computers 12,14,22 and/or 24 may be wireless whereby the network 15 may be accessed from a remote location. For example, any of the computers 12, 14, 22 and/or 24 may be a Palm Pilot™ device by 3Com, Inc., or a wireless telephone that may access the internet wirelessly. It should be noted that any number of remote computers may be utilized in the network and the invention should not be construed as limited as herein described. Further, as indicated above, any number of remote servers may be connected having a plurality of databases to create the network 15 to store the websites 18a-18d. Still further, any number of websites may be contained within the databases 16,28 that may be apparent to those skilled in the art.

Further, the remote servers 10,26 or other remote server connected to the databases 16,28 and/or other databases may provide a distinct and unique portal for entry to the network 15. Therefore, an individual using the network 15 may have access to any and/or all of the websites contained on the network 15. Generally, the network 15 may be a self-contained network within the larger context of a large computer network, such as, for example, the internet.

Generally, a user of the system 1 such as, for example, a healthcare provider (as shown in Figure 2) may access the remote server 10 via the remote computer 12. Upon accessing the remote server 10, the user may then create a website using materials stored within the database 16 such as, for example, pre-defined information relating to the healthcare provider such as, for example, text boxes, buttons, links, photographs, graphics or any

other information that may be apparent to those skilled in the art. Further, the user may input distinctive information for placement on the website. The created website may be stored within the database 16 and may be accessed via any other remote computer by an individual wishing to contact, for example, the healthcare provider. Further, the individual may wish to search for the healthcare provider within the database 16 via the search engines 20,30 or any other search engine apparent to those skilled in the art.

Each of the websites 18a-18d or any other website that may be stored in the databases 16,28, may consist of a single web page 32 as illustrated by the website 18c. Alternatively, the websites may consist of a plurality of web pages 34a-34c as shown by the website 18d. Any number of web pages may be created for each of the websites 18a-18d or any other website that may contain information related to the health care provider. Links may be provided on each web page for access to the web pages on each of the websites.

Further, a website created by one of the healthcare providers may be associated with another website of another healthcare provider or a plurality of healthcare providers via associations 36. For example, a health care provider such as, for example, a dentist may create a website 18a relating information about the dentist. Further, an orthodontist may create a website 18b relating information about the orthodontist. The dentist and the orthodontist may wish to associate themselves together for referrals of patients. A link may be provided on each of the websites 18a,18b thereby linking the websites 18a,18b to each other.

Referring now to Figure 2, a plurality of healthcare

providers 50 is shown. The plurality of healthcare providers 50 may include a hospital 52, an assisted living center 53, a retirement home 54, a rehabilitation center 55, a nursing home 56, a group home 57, a clinic 58, an extended care center 59, a home care provider 60 and/or a practitioner 62. Further, any other healthcare provider may be included within the plurality of healthcare providers 50 that may be apparent to those skilled in the art.

Any of the plurality of healthcare providers 50 may access the remote server 10 or 26 via step 64 and create a website via step 66. The remote server may show a form on a web page that may be accessed via a web browser such as, for example, Netscape or Internet Explorer. The form may include a plurality of choices 68 for the healthcare provider to design the website. The website choices may include a choice of styles 70, text 72, graphics 74, photos 76, buttons 78, links 80, attributes 81, pages 82 or associations with others 84. Each of the website choices 68 may be stored within the databases 16,28 to be chosen by the healthcare provider creating the website for placement on the website of the healthcare provider.

The style choice 70 may include an ability to change the presentation of the look of the website. This may include how items on the website are arranged, colors that are used, and other aspects of the website relating to the overall look of the website. The text choice 72 may include the ability to create text boxes on the website to fill with text that may relate to the healthcare provider. The text choice 72 may allow an individual that accesses the site to gain information regarding the healthcare provider or for any other reason that may be apparent to those skilled in the art.

The graphics choice 74 may allow a healthcare provider to add graphics to the website to make the website more appealing, attractive and/or informative. The graphics may be saved within the database 16 or 28 or in any other database. Further, graphics 74 may be imported to the website via the remote computer 12 by the healthcare provider. This may allow the healthcare provider to input graphics relating to that particular healthcare provider. Photos 76 may also be added to the website. The photos 76 may be imported into the website by the healthcare provider or may be taken from the databases 16,28.

Further, buttons 78 may be provided that may transport the user to another place on the network such as, for example, to another page or to another website. Further, links 80 may be provided that also may transport an individual to other pages 82 or other websites contained within the network.

The healthcare provider may associate with others 84 by linking the website of the healthcare provider with websites from other healthcare providers contained within the network. This may allow an individual searching the network to find other healthcare providers that may be recommended by the healthcare provider on the website the individual is viewing.

A plurality of attributes 81 may be contained within the databases 16,28 that may uniquely describe the health care providers creating the website. These attributes may include location, names of personnel, amenities, services, treatments, specialities, care philosophy, hours, diseases treated or any other attribute that may be apparent to those skilled in the art. The attributes 81 may be chosen by the health care provider via an

attribute list for placement of the information on the website. The attributes 81 may allow an individual to search the databases 16,28 via the search engines 20,30 to find a website or a plurality of websites having the same or similar attributes to what is desired by the individual conducting the search.

Further, other website choices 68 may be provided that may allow the healthcare provider to create a unique and informative website. After the healthcare provider has created the website, the healthcare provider may save the website via step 86 on the database 16 or 28 or any other database. Therefore, the website created by the healthcare provider via the remote computer 12 may be contained on the network 15 of databases 16,28 or any other database.

Alternatively, the healthcare provider may access the website of the healthcare provider via step 88. Each of the websites created by the healthcare providers 50 may automatically contain an update button 90 that may allow the healthcare provider to have instant access to changing the website of the healthcare provider. The healthcare provider may add information to the website, may change links associated with the website or may do any other editing of the website that may be apparent to those skilled in the art. After the healthcare provider has updated the website of the healthcare provider, the healthcare provider may save the website within the databases 16,28 via step 92.

It should be understood that various changes and modifications to the presently preferred embodiments described herein will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Such changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present

invention and without diminishing its attendant advantages. It is, therefore, intended that such changes and modifications be covered by the appended claims.